

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for enabling electronic document ratification, the method
2 comprising:
3 receiving an unmodifiable document with a document receiving device;
4 collecting handwritten content from a recipient of the document; and
5 adding data reflective of the handwritten content to the document without
6 replacing original content of the document.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an unmodifiable document
2 comprises receiving an unmodifiable document with a multi-function peripheral
3 (MFP) device.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an unmodifiable document
2 comprises receiving a PDF file.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an unmodifiable document
2 comprises receiving a file containing scanned data.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein collecting handwritten content
2 comprises collecting handwritten content from a recipient of the device using the
3 document receiving device.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein collecting handwritten content
2 comprises scanning handwritten content using the document receiving device.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein scanning handwritten content
2 comprises only scanning handwritten content that was manually added to a printout of
3 the document.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein only scanning handwritten content that
2 was manually added comprises only scanning handwritten content contained within an
3 input block of the document.

1 9. The method of claim 6, wherein scanning handwritten content
2 comprises scanning an entire printout of the document and comparing data obtained
3 through the scanning with data of the received unmodifiable document.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein collecting handwritten content
2 comprises collecting handwritten marks entered by the recipient in a handwriting
3 input device of the document receiving device.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein adding data comprises adding data
2 within an input block of the unmodifiable document.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising at least one of printing the
2 document after the data has been added, transmitting the document after the data has
3 been added, and storing the document after the data has been added.

1 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising sending an unmodifiable
2 document to the document receiving device.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising identifying an input block
2 of the unmodifiable document prior to sending the unmodifiable document.

1 15. The method of claim 13, further comprising adding metadata to the
2 unmodifiable document that identifies that the document is to be ratified.

1 16. The method of claim 13, further comprising adding metadata to the
2 unmodifiable document that identifies a location of an input block of the document.

1 17. A system for enabling electronic document ratification, the system
2 comprising:

3 means for transmitting an unmodifiable document;

4 means for receiving the transmitted document;

5 means for collecting handwritten content from a recipient of the document;

6 and

7 means for adding data reflective of the handwritten content to the document

8 without replacing original content of the document.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for transmitting comprise
2 at least one of a digital sender and a multi-function peripheral (MFP) device.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for receiving comprise a
2 multi-function peripheral (MFP) device.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for collecting handwritten
2 content comprise a document scanner.

1 21. The system of claim 20, further comprising means for controlling the
2 document scanner to only scan the handwritten content.

1 22. The system of claim 20, further comprising means for comparing
2 scanned data with data of the transmitted document.

1 23. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for collecting handwritten
2 content comprise a handwriting input device of a document receiving device that
3 received the document.

1 24. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for adding data comprise
2 means for adding data within an input block of the document.

1 25. The system of claim 17, further comprising means for adding metadata
2 to the unmodifiable document that identifies at least one of that the document is to be
3 ratified and a location of an input block of the document.

1 26. A document ratification manager stored on a computer-readable
2 medium, the manager comprising:
3 logic configured to identify a document to be ratified; and
4 logic configured to add metadata to the document that identifies that the
5 document is to be ratified.

1 27. The manager of claim 26, further comprising logic configured to
2 identify an input block of the document to which handwritten content is to be added.

1 28. The manager of claim 27, further comprising logic configured to add
2 metadata to the document that identifies the location of the input block.

1 29. A document sending device, comprising:
2 a processing device; and
3 memory including a document ratification manager that is configured to
4 identify a document to be ratified, add metadata to the document that identifies that
5 the document is to be ratified, add metadata to the document that identifies the
6 location of an input block of the document to which handwritten content is to be
7 added, and transmit the document and metadata to a document receiving device.

1 30. A document ratification manager stored on a computer-readable
2 medium, the manager comprising:

3 logic configured to receive an unmodifiable document;

4 logic configured to collect handwritten content from a recipient of the
5 document; and

6 logic configured to add data reflective of the handwritten content to the
7 document without replacing original content of the document.

1 31. The manager of claim 30, wherein the logic configured to collect
2 comprises logic configured to only scan handwritten content that was manually added
3 to a printout of the document.

1 32. The manager of claim 30, wherein the logic configured to collect
2 handwritten content comprises logic configured to compare data obtained through
3 scanning a print-out of the document with data contained in the received unmodifiable
4 document.

1 33. The manager of claim 30, wherein the logic configured to collect
2 handwritten content comprises logic configured to collect handwritten marks entered
3 by the recipient in a handwriting input device.

1 34. The manager of claim 30, wherein the logic configured to add data
2 comprises logic configured to add data within an input block of the unmodifiable
3 document.

1 35. A document receiving device, comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 memory including a document ratification manager that is configured to
4 receive an unmodifiable document, collect handwritten content from a recipient of the
5 document, and add data reflective of the handwritten content to the document without
6 replacing original content of the document.

1 36. The device of claim 35, wherein the document ratification manager is
2 configured to scan handwritten content that was manually added to a printout of the
3 document by the recipient.

1 37. The device of claim 36, wherein the document ratification manager is
2 configured to compare data obtained through scanning a print-out of the document
3 with data of the received unmodifiable document.

1 38. The device of claim 35, wherein the document ratification manager is
2 configured to collect handwritten marks entered by the recipient in a handwriting
3 input device.

1 39. The device of claim 35, wherein the document ratification manager is
2 configured to add data within an input block of the unmodifiable document.